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Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
World Heritage Convention

MINUTES OF THE TENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE LIAISON GROUP OF THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

**16 September 2015
Geneva, Switzerland**

1. The tenth ordinary meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) was held on 16 September 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), International Environment House, Geneva, Switzerland. In addition to the members of the BLG and other representatives of the secretariats, the Secretary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) participated as an observer at the meeting, specifically contributing to the related item of the agenda. A list of the participants is provided in annex to this document. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Ania Grobicki, Deputy Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

2. Mr. John Scanlon, Secretary-General of CITES welcomed participants. Ms. Ania Grobicki, Deputy Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention, Chair, opened the meeting and invited introductions. She provided a special welcome to the representatives of the International Plant Protection Convention, participating for the first time as a member of the BLG, and to Ms. Anne Larigauderie, Executive Secretary of IPBES. The Chair noted that the minutes of the ninth meeting of the BLG had been approved. She provided an overview of the items to be addressed at the present meeting. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) introduced a number of documents circulated prior to the meeting relevant to various items of the agenda and a document tabulating progress in implementing the agreements of the ninth meeting of the BLG that could help to inform consideration of appropriate follow-up actions under relevant items of the agenda. The Chair invited the adoption of the agenda of the meeting. Proposals were made and agreed, to add consideration of the contribution of the biodiversity-related conventions and the BLG to Sustainable Development Goal 15 under item 3 and to include an update on the review of administrative arrangements being undertaken by CITES under the item for any other business. With these amendments, the agenda was adopted.

ITEM 2. REVIEW OF RECENT AND UPCOMING MEETINGS UNDER THE CONVENTIONS, HIGHLIGHTING ISSUES OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO THE BLG

3. Under this item, members provided updates on outcomes of recent meetings that are relevant to the BLG and to highlight relevant issues that will be considered at upcoming meetings, including activities in preparation towards such meetings.

4. Mr. Braulio Dias, Executive Secretary of CBD, highlighted a number of outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12), including in relation to the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and cooperation and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. He informed the BLG that COP 13 would be held in Cancun, Mexico from 4 to 17 December 2016, concurrently with the meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols. He indicated that the high-level segment, which would take place prior to the opening of COP 13, would be under the theme of mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity in sectoral public policy, and that ministers from the sectors of tourism, agriculture, forest and fisheries would be invited. He added that an International Workshop on Biodiversity Mainstreaming would be held in Mexico City from 17 to 19 November 2015, and that the issue of mainstreaming of biodiversity would be discussed at intersessional meetings under the Convention. Mr. Dias also informed the BLG that the nineteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and the ninth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) would be held over six days (three days each, with a partial overlap). He added that the twentieth meeting of SBSTTA and the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 1) would be held from 25 to 29 April 2016 and 2 to 6 May 2016, respectively.

5. The BLG discussed ways for members to engage and disseminate information on the collaborative work undertaken by the BLG in upcoming meetings of CBD. Ideas included a side-event about the BLG to showcase its work that could be organized in the margins of COP 13; a BLG Pavilion that could be organized in the margins of the CBD COPs (similar to the Rio Convention Pavilion); and an event at the IUCN World Congress to take place in Hawaii, United States of America, from 1 to 10 September 2016. **It was agreed that the CBD Secretariat would prepare an initial concept with possible options and circulate this among the BLG members.**

6. Mr. John Scanlon, Secretary-General of the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), informed the BLG that the 22nd meeting of the CITES Plants Committee would be held in Georgia from 19 to 23 October 2015, that the 66th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee would be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 11 to 15 January 2016, and that the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) would be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 24 September to 5 October 2016. He added that COP 17 would discuss a number of hot topics, including species conservation (elephants, rhinos, sharks, lions, etc.), illegal trade and sustainable use of wildlife.

7. Mr. Scanlon also informed the BLG that the next meeting of the Standing Committee would be held in Geneva in January 2016. He mentioned that the secretariats of CITES and of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) now shared a programme officer.

8. He said he would be interested to look at how the CITES and CBD COPs, and perhaps the IUCN World Conservation Congress, could be used for collaboration on the issue of sustainable use. He noted that an event on the BLG could be held at COP 17 as a precursor to such an event at CBD COP 13.

9. On the issue of sustainable use, Mr. Dias mentioned the preparation by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) of a document for the nineteenth meeting of SBSTTA on the contribution of FAO's five principles for sustainable agriculture to the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 7.

10. Mr. Jingyuan Xia, Secretary of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), invited Mr. Craig Fedchock, Coordinator, IPPC, to brief the BLG. Mr. Fedchock informed the BLG that the tenth

session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-10) had been held in March 2015. He also informed the BLG that the next meeting of the IPPC Standards Committee would be held in Rome from 16 to 20 November 2015, and that CPM-11 would be held in Rome, from 4 to 8 April 2016. Mr. Fedchock informed the meeting that the Parties to IPPC agreed at CPM-10 to initiate a process to commemorate an International Year of Plant Health in 2020. Finland had taken the lead in pursuing this. The idea was endorsed at the thirtieth session of the FAO Conference, in June 2015. The next step would be for the FAO Conference to adopt it in 2017, and it would then be proposed in the United Nations General Assembly in 2018. Mr. Dias noted that UNESCO had also expressed the intention to commemorate an international year dedicated to plants.

11. Mr. Fedchock noted that a meeting of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG), to be held in October 2015, would look towards 2020 and five-year planning issues, including interrelation to other conventions. Mr. Fedchock added that the IPPC secretariat was working with other convention secretariats, including preparing a joint work plan with the CBD Secretariat, and that the discussions of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) on biodiversity-related issues were expanding, for example on weeds and forest products. Mr. Fedchock said that IPPC was working on an electronic phytosanitary certification system which raised a number of challenges. IPPC and CITES were planning on taking part in the meeting of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 16 and 17 October 2015. Mr. Dias noted that such issues were of particular interest with regard to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols.

12. Mr. Jingyuan Xia stressed the importance attached by IPPC to the proposed International Year of Plant Health 2020 and requested the support of the BLG towards this. Mr. Xia also stressed the importance of ePhyto technology to help support developing countries. He said that the first Global ePhyto¹ Symposium would be taking place in the Republic of Korea in November 2015. **IPPC's proposal on the International Year of Plant Health and information on ePhyto would be shared with the BLG members by email (PowerPoint files).**

13. Mr. Qunli Han, Secretary of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, representing the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, informed the BLG that Ms. Mechthild Rössler had recently been appointed Director of the Division for Heritage and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Mr. Han said that the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee met in Bonn, in July 2015. He noted that the twentieth session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention would be held in Paris from 18 to 20 November 2015. He said that the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee would be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in July 2016. He mentioned that the IUCN World Conservation Congress, to be held in Hawaii, United States of America, from 1 to 10 September 2016, would provide an opportunity to discuss synergies and that the World Heritage Centre, Ramsar Secretariat and IUCN would present the results of their joint study on synergies on integrated management of areas with multiple international designations. Mr. John Scanlon, Secretary-General of CITES, noted links between CMS, CITES and WHC, for example in relation to the impacts of poaching on World Heritage sites.

14. Mr. Bradnee Chambers, CMS Executive Secretary, outlined a number of significant and substantive resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to CMS at its eleventh meeting (CMS COP 11), held in Quito, in November 2014. COP 11 agreed to reform the scientific council so that it would be regionally based and appointed by COP. COP also agreed on an improved intersessional compliance process, as well as on improving synergies within the CMS family of instruments. COP adopted a strategic plan aligned with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Mr. Chambers said COP agreed on guidelines for a global phase-out of lead ammunition in order to protect migratory birds. Mr. Chambers noted that the next CMS COP would be held in 2017 in Manila, and that the next standing committee meeting would be held on 14 and 15 October 2015. The signatories of the raptors MoU would be meeting in Trondheim on 6 and 7 October 2015 and the signatories of the sharks MoU would meet in Costa Rica in February 2016.

¹ The ePhyto project is an initiative of IPPC to assist countries to implement electronic exchanges (eCert) of phytosanitary certificates. For more information, consult: <https://www.ippc.int/en/ephyto/>

15. Mr. Chambers added that the CMS family was increasing synergies under an overarching framework and said that on the basis of a pilot project on communications, the instruments were exploring the possibility to have more pilot initiatives.

16. Mr. Chambers said that CMS worked with the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) on the issue of impacts of wind-generated power on birds and bats (he mentioned that birds were mistaking solar panels for water, and talked about the impact of power turbines on cetaceans). Mr. Chambers said that COP agreed on Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment. He mentioned a joint op-ed with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Ms. Laura Cerasi of the CMS Secretariat said that the multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the Energy Task Force)² was established to address specific issues, such as wind and solar power impact assessments, and said that it planned to organize a side-event in the margins of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (UNFCCC COP 21) in Paris in November/December 2015.

17. Mr. Shakeel Bhatti, Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), participating in the meeting via teleconference, informed the BLG of the completion of three intersessional processes since September 2014. The first was related to consultations on a global information system that would be taken up by the Governing Body at its sixth session, to be held in Rome from 5 to 9 October 2015 (strategic implementation of the Global Information System of Article 17). He said that this provided a good example of synergy between conventions through links with the CBD clearing-house mechanism and working with InforMEA. He noted the Treaty's sub-working group on standards to facilitate interoperability, and opportunities for synergies between electronic systems (electronic reporting, compliance procedures, and reporting formats). The second was the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on plant genomes and potential applications for agriculture. The third related to work to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing that had close links with CBD.

18. Mr. Dias mentioned the 6th International Barcode of Life Conference, held in August 2015, and noted opportunities to make better use of barcoding technology, which was relevant to the work of several of the conventions, including CITES and the International Treaty. He suggested that the BLG could encourage Parties to make better use of these technologies, including to better track importation and exportation, and encourage Parties to increase funding for barcode libraries. Mr. Scanlon noted the importance of new technologies for legally traded products, for example to provide assurance to consumers.

19. Mr. Kent Nnadozie, ITPGRFA Secretariat, noted that the Governing Body at its sixth session would also respond to CBD decisions XII/30 on guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and XII/6 on cooperation and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. He noted that the Governing Body was expected to call for full participation in the Party-led process initiated by decision XII/6 and the endorsement of the BLG.

20. Ms. Ania Grobicki, Deputy Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), briefed the BLG on relevant outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the Ramsar Convention, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in June 2015. COP 12 adopted the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan for the period 2016-2024 (resolution XII/2), with a mid-term review to be held in 2020, aimed at harmonizing the plan with the post-2020 follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. She mentioned that the Ramsar Strategic Plan had four goals: addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation; conserving and managing the Ramsar site network effectively; wisely using all wetlands, and; enhancing implementation. Ms. Grobicki indicated that resolution XII/3 addressed the need to strengthen synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions; resolution XII/10 introduced a new accreditation award for Wetland Cities (working in collaboration with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and UN-Habitat); resolution XII/13 discussed disaster risk reduction, including the Caring for

² More information on the Energy Task Force, including the terms of reference, is available under UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Doc.10.2 (online at: http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/Doc_10_2_Renewable_Energy_E.pdf)

Coasts initiative in collaboration with CBD Secretariat; and resolution XII/9 included a strategy on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) for the next 9 years. She also mentioned that a side-event launching the UNEP Sourcebook on harmonization was held in the margins of COP 12, as well as a side-event on site-level harmonization by IUCN and World Heritage Convention, Man and Biosphere Programme and Global Geoparks Network, together with Ramsar.

21. Dr. Grobicki noted that the 51st meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee would be taking place in November 2015, and that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel would hold its next meeting in November 2015 (as STRP19), with a restructured membership as decided in Resolution XII/5. The thirteenth meeting of the COP would be held in the United Arab Emirates in 2018. She also noted a joint indicators initiative with CBD mandated by the Ramsar COP 12, and for which a Ramsar meeting was being held back-to-back with the ongoing meeting of the CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators. This would help to ensure synergies in monitoring under the two conventions. She also noted that Ramsar Secretariat has been working closely with CBD on indicators for the SDGs (both under Goal 6 and Goal 15).

22. Mr. Dias provided a briefing on Caring for Coasts, an ecosystem restoration initiative led by Birdlife International that was welcomed at CBD COP 12 and for which, through a voluntary contribution from Canada, funding could be made available by the CBD Secretariat. Ms. Grobicki noted the interest of the GEF Secretariat in the Caring for Coasts initiative, which would be complementary to the recently launched collaborative platform Source to Sea.

23. Mr. Scanlon reported on plans being developed by the CITES Secretariat and the CBD Secretariat for joint CITES/CBD regional workshops (back-to-back) in preparation for the 2016 meetings of the COPs to CITES and CBD. Those week-long workshops would bring the two sets of focal points together and have a dedicated session on cooperation and synergies to which other convention secretariats could contribute. Mr. Chambers indicated his support for the idea of joint pre-COP meetings and that the CMS Secretariat had been looking for ways to bring the convention focal points together. The possibility of joint pre-COPs for Ramsar and CBD in 2018 was raised.

ITEM 3. CONSIDERATION OF OTHER UPCOMING EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND RELEVANT OUTCOMES OF EXTERNAL PROCESSES

24. Under this agenda item, members considered their potential collaboration in activities at or in the margins of major meetings that were external to the biodiversity-related conventions, and discussed other major meetings that might warrant a coordinated approach among the members of the BLG. In addition, the meeting considered implications for possible collaboration arising from the forthcoming adoption of the sustainable development goals under the United Nations General Assembly.

25. Mr. Dias introduced the item with reference to the results of the Secretariat's efforts to engage in the process for the elaboration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the SDGs and discussed a number of opportunities to further engage the BLG, including by preparing a joint statement to be presented during the Summit in New York. Similar statements could also be prepared for UNFCCC COP 21 in Paris, and the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to be held in Ankara. He suggested that the BLG discuss access to funding, for example, through the Green Climate Fund and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN). He also suggested a dedicated meeting of the BLG on the SDGs. He further suggested the benefit of gaining an express mandate from CBD COP 13 to further engage on the SDGs.

26. The BLG members agreed **to organize a dedicated meeting or a teleconference of the BLG on the SDGs. The CBD Secretariat would take the lead on this.**

27. Ms. Amy Fraenkel, CBD Secretariat, provided a briefing on the results of the work of the CBD Secretariat to support the integration of biodiversity in the SDGs. She mentioned that paragraph 33 of the declaration focused on biodiversity. She noted that the CBD Secretariat had provided information to help inform the discussions of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans as a model of inter-ministerial

mechanisms for national commitments. While the decision on reporting would be left to countries, there was language in paragraphs 63 and 78 that talked about this idea. Ms. Fraenkel mentioned Goals 14 and 15, related to biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as targets under other Goals, including Goals 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 (see reference documents mentioned in annex II). **A document on interlinkages between biodiversity and the SDGs prepared by the CBD Secretariat would be shared with the BLG members for their inputs.**

28. Ms. Fraenkel also presented a number of ideas for the way forward, including the need to ensure that the biodiversity-related targets included in the SDGs remained consistent with those of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets after the year 2020, when the Strategic Plan would likely be modified. In particular, it would be important to ensure that biodiversity remained relevant to the SDGs until 2030. She added that, in paragraph 82, there was some helpful text on the review of the SDGs and the linkages between the SDGs and relevant global processes.

29. Ms. Fraenkel discussed the participation of the CBD Secretariat at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015, to be held from 25 to 27 September 2015. This would include participation in a UNEP-led “Call for Action” event with a panel on biodiversity. The BLG members discussed the need to integrate biodiversity in the process for monitoring the SDGs, which was being developed under the United Nations Statistical Commission, beyond the inclusion of one or two indicators, and about ways to use the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 to elevate the BLG’s common interest in order to avoid working in silos within SDG development processes and related economic forums.

30. A BLG member noted that the United Nations Development Action Framework (UNDAF) could be leveraged in that context, and that the BLG could contribute to monitoring Goal 15 and the work under the United Nations Statistical Commission. Another member noted that the development of relevant indicators on sustainable development would be key in this process, and that InforMEA could be used to report on SDG progress. Some members asked if the United Nations General Assembly resolution could reference the BLG.

31. Mr. Scanlon informed the BLG of an event of the informal group on illicit traffic in wildlife to take place on 27 September 2015 at the Central Park Zoo in New York, where Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the President of Gabon and other members of the informal Friends group would be speaking. The recent General Assembly resolution 69/314 on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife trade had come about as a result of the advocacy of this Friends group in New York. He also suggested a series of events linking the IUCN World Congress, the CITES COP and the CBD COP.

32. Further discussion was held on the development of indicators. Mr. Dias indicated that work was ongoing with several development organizations but noted that biodiversity indicators were not always adapted to development sectors.

33. Ms. Grobicki raised the idea of developing a group of friends of biodiversity, building on the Friends of CITES group and similar to the “Friends of Water”. **It was agreed that the CBD Secretariat would initiate discussions and ideas towards this.**

34. Ms. Grobicki thanked the CBD Secretariat particularly for its work on Targets 6.6 and 15.1. She noted that United Nations Statistics gave poor ratings to biodiversity indicators due to a lack of data. Ms. Grobicki added that a proposed indicator for Target 6.6 was the percentage of change in wetland extent over time. Ms. Grobicki informed the BLG of an initial mapping prepared by the Ramsar Secretariat, mapping Ramsar strategic goals and targets to all the SDGs and vice versa. She said that Ramsar would circulate two documents on the links between wetlands and the SDGs.

35. Ms. Anne Larigauderie, IPBES Executive Secretary, said that it was important not to restrict the Group’s communications to Goal 15. Biodiversity was important for many other SDGs. Mr. Nnadozie noted Goal 2 as another example, in addition to Goal 6.

36. The meeting discussed the preparation of a possible joint publication on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and SDGs. Mr. Dias said that an internal CBD document mapping the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to

the SDGs would be circulated to all for additional inputs. It was agreed that this could be discussed during a dedicated meeting of the BLG on SDGs.

37. The Chair proposed to identify a date for a dedicated session on the SDGs, either through a videoconference or in person. **Mr. Dias said that the CBD Secretariat would circulate a proposal for a BLG session on the issue of the SDGs, including format (videoconference or in person) structure, venue, timing as well as background documents.**

ITEM 4. INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

38. Under this item, the Secretary of IPBES gave a presentation introducing progress in the implementation of IPBES 2014-2018 work programme, opportunities for the BLG to contribute to IPBES, and preparations for the upcoming IPBES Plenary in February 2016.

39. Ms. Larigauderie, Executive Secretary of IPBES, presented the four objectives of the Platform's 2014-2018 work programme: to strengthen the capacity and knowledge foundations of the science-policy interface to implement key IPBES functions; regional and global assessments; thematic and methodological assessments, and; communicate and evaluate IPBES activities, deliverables and findings. Ms. Larigauderie added that 18 deliverables were linked to the four objectives. She said that, among other task forces, a task force responsible for capacity-building was to develop a programme for performing assessment including a Young Fellowship Pilot Programme and matchmaking facilitate to implement capacity-building projects.

40. With regard objective 2, regional and global assessments, Ms. Larigauderie noted that the IPBES plenary, through decision 3/1, had requested IPBES to perform an assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services in four regions (Europe and Central Asia, Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific) over the succeeding three years (2015-2017) and to report to IPBES 6 plenary in 2018. She said that the first author meetings had been completed, that first order drafts would be open for comments in June-July 2016 and that a second order draft would be circulated to experts and Governments before final review.

41. She said that the process of producing the Global Assessment included a global scoping meeting to be held in Bonn from 5 to 7 October 2015, a scoping report to be considered by IPBES 4 in February 2016, leading towards a final report to be produced in 2019. Ms. Larigauderie invited the meeting to think about linkages between the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO 5) and the Global Assessment.

42. With regard objective 3, thematic and methodological assessments, Ms. Larigauderie noted that the third author meeting of the pollination assessment had been held in July 2015 and that the assessment on pollination and pollinators associated with food production was to be delivered at IPBES 4. The assessment on land degradation and restoration was ongoing. Other assessments included scenario analysis and modelling, invasive alien species, sustainable use of biodiversity and diverse conceptualization of values of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

43. Other important meetings included the sixth Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and Bureau Meeting, to be held from 8 to 12 October 2016.

44. Ms. Larigauderie noted opportunities for BLG to contribute to IPBES processes by nominating experts for assessments and other work, by providing comments and inviting Parties to provide comments on the first and second order drafts of the assessments, and by calling for projects for the matchmaking facility on capacity-building. She also invited BLG to contribute to the assessments on pollinators and scenario analysis on the scoping reports, and on indigenous and local knowledge procedures and approaches.

45. Ms. Larigauderie highlighted the request of the IPBES plenary to the MEAs related to biodiversity and ecosystem services: invites the secretariats of the MEAs related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, as appropriate, to work with the Bureau to develop strategic partnerships, modelled on the existing strategic partnership arrangement with the secretariat of the CBD, setting out areas for collaboration and cooperation, to be approved by the Plenary at a future session (decision IPBES 3/4).

46. Mr. Dias indicated that it was importance for the Conventions to gain ownership of the assessments. The Global Biodiversity Assessment (GBA) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) had difficulty gaining acceptance under CBD, beyond being taken note of by COP, because the preparation had not formally involved the Convention or its Parties. For that reason, the CBD Secretariat was disseminating all communications issued by IPBES to the CBD national focal points/Parties to help enable such ownership and avoid a situation in which they were unaware of the processes, opportunities and invitations to contribute.

47. The issue of success in engaging scientists from developing countries was discussed. It was observed that involving developed countries sometimes entailed more difficulty, as they had to find their own funding to participate. Ms. Larigauderie noted that there was a challenge in attracting social scientists. Mr. Scanlon noted a strong buy-in from the CITES scientific committee and standing committee, referencing the “sustainable use” assessment. He noted that the CITES Secretariat was also distributing all IPBES notifications to Parties.

48. Mr. Chambers noted the importance of the scoping paper. He also noted that CMS wished to contribute strongly to the global assessment and hoped to have a migratory species assessment in the future. Ms. Grobicki welcomed the opportunity to nominate experts and noted that Ramsar would welcome opportunities to have more involvement in the regional assessments and meetings. She drew attention to BESNET and suggested that it would be helpful if IPBES could share a notification on BESNET and how this could be used. Ms. Larigauderie suggested that this could be done after the IPBES Plenary.

49. The BLG also discussed the potential to enhance joint communications around the publication of IPBES reports, for example joint statements of the executive heads and coordinated work among the communications officers of IPBES and convention secretariats. With regard to communications, it was noted that the term “science-policy” was being omitted from many IPBES materials and communications and that, among other things, that omission might cause misconceptions given that the science-policy interface was the unique aspect of IPBES as compared to the other intergovernmental processes related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including the biodiversity-related conventions.

50. The BLG discussed the request of the IPBES Plenary to the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) related to biodiversity and ecosystem services to develop strategic partnerships, modelled on the existing strategic partnership arrangement with the secretariat of CBD, and whether that should be developed individually or collectively. There was agreement that it would be more powerful if it were done through the BLG and collectively. It was agreed that a collective memorandum of understanding (MoU) would be prepared and would be signed by each of the secretariats, and **that the CMS Secretariat would prepare a first draft with a view to its completion in November 2015 for submission to the IPBES Plenary.** Consultations would be held with the Standing Committees as appropriate. The MoU between IPBES and CBD could be used as an example.

51. The Chair and the meeting thanked Ms. Larigauderie for her presentation and participation to item 4 of the meeting.

ITEM 5. PARTY-LED PROCESS CONCERNING COOPERATION AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

52. In introducing this item, Ms. Amy Fraenkel, CBD Secretariat, informed the BLG that the CBD COP decision XII/6 established a party-led process concerning cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions. That provided an opportunity for Parties to enhance synergies in various areas at the level of national implementation and through decisions that might be taken by the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions. In that decision, COP established a regionally balanced informal advisory group (IAG) of Party representatives selected by the COP Bureau and called for the BLG to participate in the Group. BLG members noted that the work on cooperation and synergies responded to paragraph 89 of the Rio+20 outcome document calling for enhanced synergies among Parties to the MEAs.

53. Mr. Neil Pratt, CBD Secretariat, provided an update on the status of the work of the party-led process, including the preparations towards the workshop to be held in January 2016. Mr. Pratt informed the BLG that the informal advisory group elected a chair from among its members to guide its work in the person of Mr. Vinod B. Mathur, India. Mr. Pratt added that the IAG meeting to be held on 17 and 18 September 2015 would discuss options regarding the chairing of the workshop itself, noting that regional balance would be taken into account. It was noted that the results of the UNEP project on synergies would serve as an important input to the workshop. Mr. Pratt added that the Secretariat was working with UNEP-WCMC to prepare a study on capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs for enhanced cooperation, funded by Switzerland. That would serve as an input to the workshop.

54. Mr. Dias noted that the process was one of a kind and that its format did not fit into other categories, such as an ad hoc open technical expert group, or open-ended meetings.

55. Mr. Chambers noted the long discussion on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and that recent reports advanced little beyond the recommendations of a global workshop on synergies in 1998. He said that the discussion needed to go beyond actions of the secretariats and involve countries at the national level addressing practical issues of implementation and capacity-building, and noted the CMS-CITES Secretariat joint post as providing a good example. He expressed the full support of the CMS Secretariat for the process and expressed the hope that it would produce practical outcomes.

56. Mr. Pratt said that the process should lead to concrete outcomes and that the workshop would provide recommendations that would be considered by SBI 1, which, in turn, would make recommendations to COP 13. In addition to determining actions under CBD, COP might also invite the governing bodies of the other conventions to consider a reciprocal response. Mr. Pratt outlined a number of potential areas for synergies that could be addressed by the workshop and would be discussed by the forthcoming IAG meeting, as follows: Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms, information and knowledge management, national reporting and monitoring, capacity-building, communications and outreach, resource mobilization and concrete examples of financial mechanisms.

57. With regard to ensuring regional balance at the workshop, members discussed the fact that the conventions divided the world into different regional groups (under CBD, for example, Parties are organized under the five United Nations regional groups; other conventions recognize six or seven regions). Mr. Pratt noted that the aim was to provide geographical balance at the workshop rather than to have participants that would be formally representing their region.

58. Mr. Han expressed the hope that the workshop would help enhance existing collaboration and produce tangible results. He noted that the SDGs would provide a new framework at the national level that may have an influence on issues related to synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and questioned therefore whether the workshop should consider the SDGs. The overarching framework that would be provided by the SDGs and national structures/mechanisms towards them, including UNDAFs, were recognized as relevant to the discussions but likely beyond the scope and ability of the workshop.

59. The possibility of replicating mechanisms akin to the BLG and the CPF at the national level was discussed. It was noted that the recommendations of the workshop would include elements of a possible road map and that parts of such process might include further consultations among Parties at the regional level.

60. Mr. Nnadozie proposed two important messages for the BLG to carry to the process. Firstly, it was important for participants in the discussions of the IAG and the workshop not to confuse the synergies process with the BLG, which was one particular mechanism between secretariats that would continue to serve a need. Secondly, it was important to recognize that the present party-led process involving the IAG and the workshop was a unique step forward in that it represented the first time that we had an intergovernmental process that involved the Parties to the conventions in contrast to previous work that had been conducted, for example, by UNEP. He noted that one of the outcomes should be on outlining a process including options for the continued engagement of the governing bodies of the conventions.

61. Mr. Chambers observed that it would help the discussions if the BLG could put forward some proposals for measures that would support and enable joint implementation of the conventions. He noted that, despite previous efforts, this was still weak, citing as an example the very limited inclusion of migratory species in NBSAPs (only eight or nine countries) despite the preparation of guidance material to support countries in the integration of CMS in NBSAPs.

62. Mr. Fedchock noted that one of the challenges lay in communication and collaboration between the entities responsible for each of the conventions at the national level and that a national implementation unit could help address this.

63. The BLG discussed different techniques to enhance implementation including the use by countries of a “joint implementation unit” to promote implementation at the national level within the biodiversity cluster of conventions. The meeting also discussed incentives and ways for national focal points to talk and learn about each other, including in using NBSAPs workshops as a platform where NFPs can meet, and noted there was a need to increase incentives to implement inter-ministerial mechanisms that can address multiple instruments.

64. Ms. Grobicki said that Ramsar resolutions encouraged national wetlands committees to include other sectors, communication, education and public awareness, as well as scientific focal points, and that while some of those committees worked well, and others did not work so well. She noted that some committees received support from the water partnership to fill out the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) questionnaire and report to UNEP. She suggested that efforts should build on existing structures, and said that the national wetlands committees could be a good starting point.

65. Mr. Dias noted that each country had some structures that could be built upon but there had to be incentives, for example government decisions, so that it became mandatory, or other incentives, for example facilitating access to funding, such as the Green Climate Fund.

66. He also gave the example of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network of the United Nations Forum on Forest as a facilitation mechanism that helped find funding from different sources.

67. Mr. Dias outlined and the BLG considered a number of issues to be discussed in the context of the IAG and workshop, including: funding, national coordination, NBSAPs, national reporting, Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including by including the inputs of MEAs in its revision after 2020, capacity-building, reporting on financing by Parties, resource mobilization for biodiversity, implementation review process (compliance measures).

68. The BLG further discussed a number of concrete ideas: a common implementation approach (for example the joint position CITES-CMS), the establishment of a ministerial forum on biodiversity under CBD, further use of InforMEA to help with synergies on data, national-level consortiums and partnerships to mirror effective international partnerships, and providing opportunities for focal points to meet, for example, NFPs from the International Treaty and Nagoya Protocols. The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) was noted as a tool that could help ministries in bringing together information from various sources. A number of other issues mentioned by the BLG included: legislative needs, communication strategy, UNDAF guidelines, IPBES process, and cooperation on specific Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

69. Based on this discussion, the BLG agreed to brief the IAG on opportunities in relation to synergies and on its own efforts to enhance efficiencies and produce tangible results. **Ms. Amy Fraenkel proposed that a short note of these ideas be shared with the IAG during the 17-18 September meeting (annex III).**

70. A second element of this item of the agenda was to consider possible options for adjustment in the form and development of the BLG going forward. Mr. Dias introduced this element.

71. Members held a common view that the form and function of the BLG as presently constituted — as a mechanism between the convention secretariats — worked well, served a valuable purpose and had delivered tangible outcomes in building synergies among the conventions. The members agreed that the BLG was efficient and worked well.

72. It was agreed that the BLG should communicate its work and achievements in order to raise awareness. On the topic of communication, it was also suggested that the brochure and exhibition banner should be updated for use at appropriate events.

73. The BLG also discussed the invitation of observer organizations to its meetings. Members noted that UNEP had an interest in synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and served as the secretariat for three of the conventions. It was observed that if this were the basis to serve as a permanent observer in the BLG, the same invitation should be extended also to IUCN, FAO and UNESCO; that such host organizations may have mandates and different from the conventions that they host, which would change the dynamic of the meetings; and that consideration ought also to be given to implementing partners such as UNDP and others; at which point the BLG would cease to become a liaison group between the conventions.

74. Options were raised of adding a second day to the meetings of the BLG to involve other relevant entities and partners; or alternatively involving observer organizations based on the likely agenda items, as at present. The idea of involving Parties on a second day of BLG meetings was also discussed. It was noted that if Parties were to be engaged in this manner, this would need to involve all seven conventions.

75. It was also noted that if Parties were to be engaged (for example represented through members of the bureaux/standing committees of each of the seven conventions, etc), significant financing might be needed to enable such participation.

ITEM 6. SYNERGIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPORTING SYSTEMS, INCLUDING FUTURE ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEMS; AND WITH RESPECT TO MONITORING FRAMEWORKS AND INDICATOR SYSTEMS, INCLUDING THE ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020

76. Under this agenda item, the BLG discussed ongoing efforts and ways and means for enhancing reporting systems, monitoring and reporting systems, and indicators, and to consider ways to contribute to the assessment of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

77. Mr. Dias introduced the item and noted that, despite several discussions on the issue, practical ideas on measures that could be implemented to enhance synergies were needed. He noted, for example, that the idea of a modular approach to organizing reports could be developed so that there could be agreement on the format of such modules, which apply to more than one convention, and that this could be factored into the development of online reporting. He also noted ongoing discussions regarding a common set of indicators. He added that, in these and other areas, including resource mobilization and facilitating access to data, practical solutions and follow-up actions were required.

78. Mr. Chambers highlighted the difficulty in implementing harmonized reporting, and the importance of focusing on things that were possible. As an example, he said that CMS would change its reporting templates to align with its Strategic Plan which was aligned with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Regarding online reporting, he suggested that time and energy should be focused on development of an analytic tool to enable interoperability between online reporting systems. Ms. Grobicki said that Ramsar was developing a new reporting format and moving to an online system. She said this could be circulated among the BLG members for feedback with a view to enabling Ramsar to creating a common module in relevant areas of interest. Mr. Dias said that a review of the Rio Conventions concluded that less than 10% of their reporting had a common element. He noted that there was more common ground among the biodiversity-related conventions. He noted that a single approach to reporting would likely be impossible but that there could be sufficient common elements to enable common modules. He noted that CBD was also moving to an online system, focusing on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and how the data was stored with a centralized registry, centralized query system, and addressing the issue of interoperability.

79. BLG members shared information regarding statistics on the rate of reporting; noting that some conventions had high rates of responses/compliance but others had lower rates of responses. Ms. Fraenkel noted that one area of focus might be to reflect on ways to enable national-level efforts to ensure that the data used in reports to the different conventions was consistent, and suggested that the convention secretariats made an effort to ensure consistency in templates and definitions where possible. Mr. Han said that WCH provided regional and country-level training on its reporting and had a high response rate. It was an online reporting system and was connected to InforMEA and IUCN World Heritage Outlook. He noted that harmonized reporting was difficult and costly and that efforts should be focused on online and interconnected systems with new tools to extract and analyse data. Mr. Scanlon noted that a CITES working group was looking at the CITES annual report; a possible three-year report linked to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and a template for species reporting requirements. He also noted that CITES was also moving towards online reporting. Mr. Kent Nnadozie, ITPGRFA Secretariat, noted progress under the Treaty on compliance procedures that would commence in 2016 and that the information system for this was being prepared with and through InforMEA. He added that the conventions had different reporting formats that derived from the needs of the conventions, but that it would be useful to have common tools, for example common search and analysis tools. Either with or through InforMEA, the BLG could undertake an analysis to consider what tools would be needed.

80. The BLG discussed the need to develop a common thesaurus in all major languages to make the terminology more searchable, and noted that InforMEA was working on such a thesaurus in a way that would make the different systems of the conventions interoperable.

81. **The BLG agreed to set up a working group to determine the scope for having some common elements for reporting on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.**

ITEM 7. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

82. Under this item, following an introduction by the CBD Secretariat, the BLG was invited to discuss and provide guidance on reporting contributions of the biodiversity-conventions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The BLG gave consideration to and advice on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force (ABTTF) mechanism, as well as to the preparation of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO 5).

83. Mr. Dias recalled that the ABTTF included all BLG members with the exception of WHC that was represented by UNESCO, and invited the meeting to discuss better use of the task force. He recalled that following the meeting of the task force held at CBD COP 12, member organizations were invited to share information on actions they were undertaking in support of Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The consolidated report with a summary graphic had been circulated to all members. He noted that, while the level of engagement differed among the organizations, it did show the significant engagement of the member organizations in supporting countries in actions towards the Targets. A technical meeting of the ABTTF would be held in the margins of SBSTTA 19 to discuss enhanced coordination, filling gaps related to targets and to what extent organizations could take leadership in helping to push for implementation on specific targets. With regard to the latter, FAO, for example, was taking a leading role in the effort towards Targets 7 and 13, and IUCN towards Targets 11 and 12, but there was a lack of coordination or leadership for some Targets.

84. With regard to the preparation of GBO 5, Mr. Dias requested the assistance of members to help address the challenge that had been demonstrated in preparation of GBO 4, in gathering information on positive trends and in extrapolating the impacts of measures of policy and legislation that had been enacted but whose impacts would not be felt for years. He also noted that with the establishment of IPBES, consideration would be given to the role of the future editions of the GBO. Mr. Chambers said that the last COP to CMS discussed the idea of an *Outlook* on migratory species and that the Group could explore how this could be prepared in collaboration with GBO 5. Mr. Dias said that regional GBOs were envisaged for the Arctic, Africa, Latin America, East Asia and the Pacific, as well as customized formats for specific

audiences. **The BLG agreed to create a working group to systematize the BLG collaborative approach to GBO. The CBD Secretariat would circulate terms of reference to that effect.**

ITEM 8. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

85. Ms. Fraenkel introduced this item by recalling that, at its ninth meeting, the BLG had decided to establish a communications group, that the group had held its first meeting by teleconference on 2 September 2015, and that the minutes had been circulated prior to the current meeting. She noted that, among the issues of common interest discussed by the communications group was the development of a global communications strategy to be implemented over the second half of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, and joint messages of the BLG around the September Summit for adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, and at UNFCCC COP 21. **Mr. Scanlon proposed that the CBD Secretariat prepare a draft joint statement for the UNGA Summit, building on biodiversity for the achievements of the SDGs, and circulate to the BLG for comments.**

86. Ms. Fraenkel also noted that International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB, 22 May 2016) would be observed just before the second meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA, 23-27 May 2016) and that the CBD Secretariat was looking to prepare an event on biodiversity, jointly with UNEP, during the high-level segment of UNEA. She also reemphasized the opportunity that the launch of IPBES reports provided to the BLG for developing common outreach and communication on issues of global importance for biodiversity, including through major media outlets.

87. The BLG noted the need to coordinate closely with the IPBES Secretariat on IPBES communications. It also welcomed the opportunity provided by the communications group to collaborate creatively for better communications, including via social media (for example with common hashtags agreed by the communications officers), through adoption of common messages, and including by making the most of international days by coordinating in advance and for each developing core common messages on top of which secretariats could add their own specific nuances. **The group agreed to circulate common messages in advance of international days** so that a common message could be sent by all, in addition to individual messages. Mr. Han said that common messages could also be prepared for events such as UNFCCC COP 21 and IUCN Congress, as well as for the UNESCO World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in March 2016.

88. Mr. Dias said that the communication strategy to be implemented over the second half of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity would be presented to SBI 1 as an information document before its submission to COP 13. He noted that it would be helpful if BLG members could provide feedback so that the strategy could serve and be endorsed by each of them.

ITEM 9. STATUS OF CBD COP DECISION XII/30 ON THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM

89. Under this item of the agenda, the CBD Secretariat provided an update on inputs being sought from the other biodiversity-related conventions with respect to CBD COP decision XII/30 on the financial mechanism to CBD.

90. Mr. Dias said that the Secretariat was seeking information from Parties on the need for GEF financing that incorporated needs related to the implementation of all the biodiversity-related conventions to the extent that they contribute towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Mr. Dias said that a notification "Questionnaire on Funding Needs for the Implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the Seventh Replenishment Period (July 2018 - June 2022) of the Trust Fund of the Global Environment Facility", including a template, had been circulated on 19 August 2015.

91. Mr. Dias encouraged the secretariats to raise awareness of this opportunity, to encourage their national focal points to adopt a broad perspective in defining their financial needs, and to provide feedback. The secretariats would need to transmit this to the CBD Secretariat by January 2016, so that it could be incorporated in the pre-session document that would be submitted to SBI 1.

92. Mr. Dias recommended that the secretariats consult the notification of 19 August 2015 and decision XII/30 to prepare their communications to Parties on this issue. He advised the BLG that the information sought should not contain too much detail since its purpose was to influence the programmatic level and not the project level. He noted that the needs should satisfy two conditions: (a) the global significance and benefits; and (b) additionality (incremental costs as opposed to actions that Parties would be funding themselves).

93. Mr. Chambers said that CMS Secretariat would be issuing a notification asking its NFPs to communicate and coordinate with CBD NFPs to discuss funding areas. Submissions received would be compiled and provided to the Standing Committee, and the results would be communicated to the CBD Secretariat. Ms. Grobicki said that Ramsar was also using the template provided by the CBD Secretariat. Mr. Nnadozie said that a meeting being organized in November under the Treaty would bring together GEF OFPs with NFPs for the Nagoya Protocol and the Treaty. Mr. Bhatti said that the request had been highlighted in the intersessional process of the Treaty and would be addressed at the forthcoming sixth session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty (5-9 October 2015).

94. Mr. Dias noted that a series of subregional constituency workshops was being organized by the GEF Secretariat. He also noted that countries differed in how they organized themselves with regard internal coordination. Some countries, for example, had national GEF committees, but many countries had no formal process.

95. Mr. Chambers raised concerns at the decline in the number of global and regional projects supported by GEF. Mr. Dias said that the CBD Secretariat had been raising this concern with the GEF Secretariat for some time. The elimination of global and regional initiatives had been driven by some donors that believed that the grants and projects would be more effective if GEF support went directly to countries. While countries were at liberty to contribute some of their allocations to multi-country projects, enabling global and regional projects effectively would require setting some of the Trust Fund aside from the "STAR" allocations.

96. **Mr. Dias said that the CBD Secretariat would prepare a concept note for the BLG on the advantages of regional or global approaches to demonstrate where such an approach could be the most appropriate and how they could be more cost-effective.**

ITEM 10. BRIEFINGS ON BILATERAL PROGRAMMES / WORK PLANS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE BLG

97. Under this agenda item, it was agreed that members of the BLG would share with the group details of the bilateral programmes or work plans implemented between the secretariats. It was also agreed that a repository of the bilateral work plans would be established and made available on the web page of the BLG.

Actions: Members to circulate bilateral work plans. CBD Secretariat to prepare to make these available on the BLG web page.

ITEM 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

98. Mr. Scanlon briefed the meeting on work being undertaken under CITES to review the arrangements for the hosting agreement of the CITES Secretariat. He said that, based on the work conducted, an options paper had been prepared that presented three potential options. The first of these was that UNEP would continue to provide the Secretariat and that financial and human resource management support would be provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). The second option was that the Secretariat would come directly under the United Nations Secretariat (through UNOG), akin to the arrangements for the secretariats of UNFCCC and UNCCD. The third option was that the Secretariat would become a standalone entity but with a relationship with the United Nations. Mr. Scanlon informed the Group that he would keep them advised.

99. Ms. Fraenkel raised the topic of technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building which was of ongoing interest to the BLG. She mentioned work being conducted by the CBD Secretariat with the support of the Government of the Republic of Korea, in its capacity as COP 12 President, designed to support the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets through a match-making initiative known as the Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI), which was designed to promote technical and scientific cooperation and the development of capacity by developing country Parties. It was suggested that this area of technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building could be addressed at future BLG meetings.

100. Mr. Chambers inquired about the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies to the biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB) and which of the secretariats would be hosting the next meeting (it has been rotating in sequence, Ramsar, CITES, CMS etc.).

101. Mr. Dias noted the forthcoming meeting of Future Earth that would be held immediately prior to and back-to-back with the nineteenth meeting of the SBSTTA in Montreal in November 2015.

Actions: Include technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building on the agenda of the next ordinary meeting of the BLG. Clarify the dates and venue of the next meeting of the CSAB.

ITEM 12. CLOSING

102. Under this agenda item, the members considered the date and venue of their next meeting. They agreed that the next regular meeting of the BLG should be held in the second quarter of 2016 (around June). They also agreed to meet during the week of the Geneva workshop on cooperation and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and to organize a teleconference meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Actions: Arrangements to be made for teleconference meeting on SDGs, meeting at the margins of the synergies workshop and next regular meeting of BLG, June 2016.

103. The meeting was closed at 6.00 p.m.

*Annex I***Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting and procedural matters.
2. Review of recent and upcoming meetings under the Conventions, highlighting issues of strategic importance to the BLG.
3. Consideration of other upcoming external meetings and relevant outcomes of external processes.
4. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
5. Party-led process concerning cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions.
6. Synergies in the development of reporting systems, including future online reporting systems; and with respect to monitoring frameworks and indicator systems, including the assessment of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
7. Contributions of the biodiversity-related conventions and other organizations to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
8. Outreach and communication.
9. Status of CBD COP decision XII/30 on the financial mechanism.
10. Briefings on bilateral programmes/work plans between members of the BLG.
11. Any other business.
12. Closing.

*Annex II***SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE TENTH MEETING OF THE BLG****Item 2**

Upcoming meetings of the biodiversity-related conventions (attached)

Preparatory processes and milestones towards COP 13: <https://www.cbd.int/cop/preparation/default.shtml>

Item 3

Brochure on the links between Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (attached)

Outcome of the negotiation of the sustainable development goals under the General Assembly transmitted to the September Summit: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015>

United Nations General Assembly resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife unanimously adopted on 30 July 2015: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/314

Item 4

IPBES-3 – Joint Closing Statement by the Biodiversity-related MEAs:

http://www.ipbes.net/images/documents/plenary/third/in-session/statement/20150117_Closing_Remarks_MEAs.pdf

Decision IPBES-3/4: Communications, stakeholder engagement and strategic partnership:

http://www.ipbes.net/images/decisions/ipbes3/Decision_IPBES_3_4_EN.pdf

Memorandum of understanding between the CBD and IPBES Secretariats:

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/agreements/agmt-ipbes-2014-10-09-mou-en.pdf>

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/9 - Work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in the light of the 2014-2018 work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and Relationship with the Subsidiary Body on Implementation:

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-19/official/sbstta-19-09-en.pdf>

Item 7

Guidelines for implementing Aichi Biodiversity Target 7 – ‘By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity’ for Sustainable Food and Agriculture” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-19/information/sbstta-19-inf-04-en.pdf>

Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force - Actions in support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (attached);

Letter of 14 July 2015 to members of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force (attached);

Summary - Meeting of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force held on 14 October 2014 (attached).

Item 8

Notes on Communications Liaison Group Teleconference (attached);

Brochure on the links between Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (attached).

Item 9

CBD Notification 2015-094 : Questionnaire on Funding Needs for the Implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the Seventh Replenishment Period (July 2018 - June 2022) of the Trust Fund of the Global Environment Facility: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2015/ntf-2015-094-gef-fund-en.pdf>

Annex III

**INPUT OF THE LIAISON GROUP OF THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS
TO THE INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP, FOR ITS MEETING ON 17 AND 18
SEPTEMBER, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

1. The need for a Party-led process on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions has been recognized in a number of settings, including in the Rio+20 outcome document, paragraph 89, and by the governing bodies of several of the biodiversity-related conventions. The members of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)³ stand ready to support the Party-led process on synergies established by the CBD COP at its twelfth meeting.

2. This effort will fill an important gap. While the efforts by the members of the BLG to increase synergies have been very positive, a number of aspects of synergies can only be addressed by Parties themselves.

3. The BLG generally sees Party-related synergies as relating to two distinct matters: (a) actions to be taken within a country to improve synergies, both at the national level and at various other levels of government; and (b) decisions that Parties could take at the various COPs of the biodiversity-related Conventions.

4. The BLG identified the following substantive issues as ones which might benefit from discussion within the Party-led workshop to take place in 2016, including but not limited to:

- facilitating access to financial resources
- national-level coordination, including development of and implementation of revised NBSAPS
- national reporting
- the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its possible revision beyond 2020
- capacity-building, with joint representation of various conventions
- reporting on domestic resource mobilization by Parties
- review of the effectiveness of implementation review processes
- support for common implementation, including through joint posts
- development and dissemination of data e.g. through InforMEA
- national-level consortia/partnerships around specific issue areas and Aichi Targets
- national inputs to assessments (e.g., to IPBES process)
- national-level legislation/regulations
- national-level institutions (e.g., inter-ministerial coordination)
- national-level development planning and processes

5. Finally, the BLG also noted that it might be useful for the workshop to consider mechanisms and other processes to more formally bring Parties together from the various biodiversity-related conventions. Options for such a process could include a ministerial forum on biodiversity, and/or a more regular discussion by Parties on policy/technical/operational issues that would benefit from increased synergies.

³ BLG members are the heads of the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), World Heritage Convention (WHC) and International Plan Protection Convention (IPPC).